

Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending by the Revenue Committee, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the committee amendment essentially make no change in concept in the bill but it does make some adjustments to those details and I will quickly go through those. This bill originally, as introduced, required a checkoff on grains that were used eventually for food. Primarily, we're talking about milo and corn. It was introduced as a checkoff of a half cent per bushel. The committee amendment increases that half cent to three-quarters of a cent, then the committee amendment allows...has a provision that allows the check...well, the bill, as it was introduced, had a mechanism that allowed the checkoff to be decreased if the revenue was sufficient to cover the incentives and that authorization to strike it was struck. The checkoff just simply does stay in effect till the year two thous...what is it, 2001, I believe, if I remember correct. The checkoff enforcement and collection was changed from the Department of Revenue as it was introduced. This moved it to the Department of Agriculture and the checkoff is to be collected and enforced in the same manner, at the same time that the current marketing checkoffs are done. We felt that, from an administrative standpoint, made more logic. The authorization is, under the committee amendment, that the Department of Agriculture is allowed to calculate as expenses in collecting the checkoff and receive an annual appropriation from the Ethanol Production Incentive Cash Fund for covering those expenses. Then there is a section added which would authorize the transfer by the State Treasurer from General Fund to the Ethanol Production Incentive Fund, if you are looking at the committee statement, indicates by amounts...dollar amounts commencing '95-96 of 2 million and '96-97 an additional 2 million; '97-98, '98-99, 13 million each of those respective years; '99 and the year 2000, 9 million; and 2000 and 2001, 3 million, which at that time it would complete the obligations as far as we know them to be for the 20 cents a gallon that is now included in statute, in which the state has obligation to pay. And then the committee amendments also authorizes appropriations from that EPIC Fund to the Department of Agriculture to cover the cost for collecting and enforcing, as indicated in the section above. The concept, I will just